

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

BIG RIVER MINE
MO 981126877
11

3-10-81

DATE March 10, 1981

SUBJECT Meeting to Discuss Lead Mine Tailings at Desloge, Missouri

FROM Kerry Herndon, HAZM/TSS

Kerry Herndon

TO File

Attendees

Ken Grannemann	Fish & Wildlife Service, KC
Bill Ward	EPA-ENFC/LEGL
Kerry Herndon	EPA-ARHM
James A Kesel	Fish & Wildlife Service, Minneapolis
Bill Keffer	EPA-EMER
Paul Walker	EPA Lab
Jim Whitely	Mo Dept of Conservation
Chris Schmitt	FWS-Columbia National Lab
Corlin Cook	FWS-KC

The Department of the Interior Regional Response Team (RRT) members, Mr Jim Kesel and Mr Corlin Cook, requested a meeting with the above group to discuss the potential use of 311-K funds and/or Superfund for response and remedial actions at the Desloge tailing site

Dr Whitely announced that DNR is to meet with St Joseph Mineral on Friday of this week to work out the final details on an agreement to stop the inflow of water and restore the tailings pile. The DNR has no plans for removal of tailing from the river. According to Dr Whitely the amount of tailings in the floodplain and river is insignificant compared to the 500 acre tailings pile and others in the area. He believes airborne dust from mining and from blowing of tailings is a greater problem.

St Joseph Mineral is seeking to include a statement in the document to be signed Friday which will relieve the Company of past responsibility for this problem. St Joseph's Mineral is planning to open a new mine soon. This may be the reason they want to settle this problem quickly, and they have indicated a willingness to begin work almost immediately.

The state plans no RRT involvement in the negotiations. Mr Keffer expressed some concern that St Joseph Mineral had not shown an interest in RRT involvement. There are no guarantees that RRT won't require additional work if they do not concur with the original agreement.

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SUPERFUND RECORDS

Mr Kesel said the Department of the Interior was in favor of listing this site on EPA's uncontrolled site list because the contaminant released could have severe effects on the food chain and ultimately on human life. He believes that there is no difference in this site than other harmful pollutant releases. He also wanted the site to remain on the Superfund list because the Superfund program may seek sites in certain categories and this one could qualify for cleanup of the river bed.

The state is not in favor of Superfund interference until the tailing piles are restored.

Regardless of the various issues, St. Joseph Mineral will have to notify under Superfund during the next 60 days.

Final agreements reached.

1 The state will continue negotiations through Friday without interference from RRT,

2 The FWS will probably call a 311 K action at a later date for river cleanup,

3 A routine RRT meeting with an agenda item as Desloge Tailings will be called during the week of May 11.

cc Robert Morby

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ARHM/HAZM-TSS KHerndon lmh x6531 3-10-81

CONCURRENCES

SYMBOL	TSS	TSS	TSS					
	Herndon	Baggs	Buechler					
SURNAME	Herndon	Baggs	Buechler					
DATE	3-10-81	3/10/81	3/10/81					

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